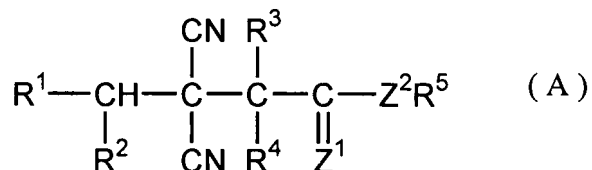


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A malononitrile compound represented by the formula (A):



wherein, R¹ represents hydrogen atom, C1 to C6 alkyl that may be substituted with halogen, C2 to C6 alkenyl that may be substituted with halogen, C2 to C6 alkynyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 cycloalkyl that may be substituted with halogen or C2 to C4 cyanoalkyl; R² represents hydrogen atom or C1 to C6 alkyl that may be substituted with halogen; R³ represents hydrogen atom or C1 to C6 alkyl; R⁴ represents hydrogen atom or C1 to C6 alkyl; R⁵ represents C1 to C8 alkyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C8 alkenyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C8 alkynyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 cycloalkyl that may be substituted with halogen, C1 to C3 alkyl which is substituted with optionally halogenated C3 to C6 cycloalkyl, C2 to C8 cyanoalkyl or C3 to C8 alkoxyalkyl, or R⁴ and R⁵ may be combined at their terminal and represent ethylene that may be substituted with C1 to C3 alkyl or trimethylene that may be substituted with C1 to C3 alkyl; and Z¹ and Z², which are the same or different, each independently represent oxygen atom or sulfur atom, with the proviso that ethyl 3,3-dicyanoheptanoate is excluded.

Claim 2. (Original) The malononitrile compound according to claim 1 wherein, in the formula (A), R⁴ is hydrogen atom or C1 to C6 alkyl, R⁵ is C1 to C6 alkyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 alkenyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 alkynyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 cycloalkyl that may be substituted with halogen or C1 to C3 alkyl which is substituted with optionally halogenated C3 to C6 cycloalkyl, or R⁴ and R⁵ may be combined at their terminal and represent ethylene that may be substituted with C1 to C3 alkyl or trimethylene that may be substituted with C1 to C3 alkyl.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The malononitrile compound according to claim 1 wherein, in the formula (A), R^1 is C1 to C6 alkyl that may be substituted with halogen, C2 to C6 alkenyl that may be substituted with halogen, C2 to C6 alkynyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 cycloalkyl that may be substituted with halogen or C2 to C4 cyanoalkyl.

Claim 4. (Original) A pesticide composition comprising the malononitrile compound according to claim 1 as active ingredient and an inert carrier.

Claim 5. (Original) A method for controlling pests comprising applying an effective dose of the malononitrile compound according to claim 1 to pests or habitat of pests.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The malononitrile compound according to claim 2 wherein, in the formula (A), R^1 is C1 to C6 alkyl that may be substituted with halogen, C2 to C6 alkenyl that may be substituted with halogen, C2 to C6 alkynyl that may be substituted with halogen, C3 to C6 cycloalkyl that may be substituted with halogen or C2 to C4 cyanoalkyl.